

Message Text

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TAGS: SOPN, PO, US

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION - SOARES U.S. VISIT

1. PRESENTATION ON APRIL 19 OF INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD TO SOARES WAS PRINCIPAL THEME IN APRIL 19-20 COVERAGE OF HIS VISIT. OTHER MAJOR TOPICS WERE SOARES' U.S. MEETING WITH WALDHEIM AND HIS N.Y. SESSION WITH U.S. BUSINESSMEN.

2. APRIL 20 LEADING PRO-GOVERNMENT "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS" PUBLISHED MAJOR FRONT-PAGE REPORT ON SOARES' VISIT, WITH LENGTHY QUOTES FROM HUMAN-RIGHTS AWARD CEREMONY STATEMENTS BY SOARES AND AMBASSADOR YOUNG. HEADLINE WAS "FOR HIS INTRANSIGENT DEVOTION TO DEMOCRACY AND FREEDOM: SOARES RECEIVES HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD." REPORT, BY CORRESPONDENT JOSE RICARDO, INCLUDED SOARES' STATEMENT ABOUT DEGREE OF "SACRIFICE WHICH PORTUGAL WILL HAVE TO SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRACY TO SURVIVE... GIVEN THE FACT THAT WITHOUT A MINIMUM OF ECONOMIC STABILITY THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY OF DEMOCRACY." REPORT QUOTED AMBASSADOR

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YOUNG REMARKS ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S INTEREST IN PORTUGAL:

"PORTUGAL IS OUR FRIEND, AND PORTUGAL NEEDS FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL HELP. TO COMBAT THE THREATS OF TOTALITARIANISM FROM THE RIGHT AND LEFT, THIS COUNTRY NEEDS FOREIGN ASSISTANCE TO OVERCOME THE DEFICIT REMAINING FROM YEARS OF EXPLORATION AND EXCESSES OF FASCISM. PRESIDENT CARTER HAS ALREADY SAID THAT HE IS WORKING TO HELP

ASSURE PORTUGAL OF THIS ASSISTANCE. ALL OF US CAN
HELP BY MAKING KNOWN HOW PORTUGAL RECONQUERED DEMOCRACY..."
WRITER SAID, "THE CONCERN OF THE PRIME MINISTER, BEYOND
WHAT HE HAS SAID, IS EVIDENT IN HIS ACTIVITIES IN NEW
YORK AND WASHINGTON WITH THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION,
IN TERMS OF SEEKING ASSURANCES OF INCREASED FINANCIAL
ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL AND INSTILLING CONFIDENCE IN
AMERICAN INVESTORS AND COMPANIES WHICH HAVE INTERESTS
IN OUR COUNTRY -- FOR THEM TO BROADEN THEIR PARTICIPATION
IN OUR NATIONAL ECONOMY."

3. OTHER PORTUGUESE MEDIA DEPENDED LARGELY UPON REPORTS
BY OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY ANOP, EXCEPT FOR STATE TELEVISION
WHICH USED A TELEPHONED REPORT FROM NEW YORK BY ITS
CORRESPONDENT IN PRIME-TIME APRIL 19 EVENING NEWCAST.
ALMOST ALL NEWSPAPER HEADLINES PLAYED UP SOARES'
HUMAN-RIGHTS AWARD. COMMUNIST "O DIARIO" OF APRIL 20
FOCUSED ON WALDHEIM MEETING, TOPPING ARTICLE WITH THIS
HEADLINE: "SHOCK AT THE U.N*: SOARES ASKS WALDHEIM TO
CONVINCE CHINA TO ACCEPT RELATIONS WITH PORTUGAL."
CITING REUTER REPORT, TEXT OF "O DIARIO" ARTICLE
SAID SOARES TOLD WALDHEIM HE FAILED TO UNDERSTAND
WHY PEKING SEEMED RELUCTANT TO COMPLETE ARRANGE-
MENTS FOR AN EXCHANGE OF DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS
WITH PORTUGAL. O "DIARIO" COVERAGE OTHERWISE WAS
STRAIGHTFORWARD AND MINIMAL ON SOARES VISIT.
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